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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

Upon instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint letter of appeal for contribution and support to disabled children, especially child victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam, signed by H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on behalf of the National Fund for Vietnamese Children - Agent Orange Victim Fund - Vietnam Save Disabled Children.*

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter as an official document of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 13.

Signed: NGUYEN Quy Binh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

LETTER TO CALL ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY CHILD VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE IN VIETNAM

Dear compatriots and friends!

Children are the family's happiness and the country's future. The Vietnamese family, as any family over the world, wishes to have healthy children who will be cared for and have access to education. Children themselves have a very simple desire of going to school and enjoying entertainment with their peers, as well as a wish to become adults in order to show their thanks to parents and contribute their part to the country's construction.

But a heart-rending fact is that at present there are millions of orphans, disabled and displaced street children. Of these, thousands of children are disabled due to deformities from Agent Orange, mines and bombs after the war. This is an endless pain, because of the fact that the war has ended over 25 years ago. These children are innocent victims, who have to suffer from physical and spiritual pains everyday, every hour and even being disabled for their whole life.

What can we do so that these children can be treated, especially those with Agent Orange deformities? What must we do for their families? These questions are always on our minds.

During the past, the State of Vietnam, the Vietnamese people and foreign friends, as well NGOs, have set forth many policies and implemented many activities concerning the care and support for these children and their families. But in fact the achievements are still very limited. Therefore, we would like to call upon:

1. Social - Political organizations, economic enterprises, communities, and overseas Vietnamese, including children and their organizations, by appropriate actions and with appropriate capability, to provide material contributions, to take care of, as well as to encourage these disabled children, especially those who are victims of Agent Orange.

2. International organizations and individuals to assist in programs for caring and rehabilitating the disabled children, to help families of disabled children, to support us in cleaning areas with Agent Orange and to assist us in de-mining unexploded bombs and mines. The support from you and people of good conscience all over the world would help to reduce the pain of the war, in order to put aside the past and look at a peaceful future for coordination and development, as well as protecting children's rights and human rights.

It is our hope that many national and international organizations and individuals will respond and provide appropriate support for the best sucess of this campaign for disabled children in general and in particular, children of Agent Orange in Vietnam. The disabled children and children suffering from Agent Orange are waiting for your support.

We would like to thank you all.

Hanoi, 22 March 2001

On behalf of : **National Fund for Vietnamese Children**
Agent Orange Victim Fund
Vietnam Save Disabled Children